



PUBLISHED DAILY AND TRI-WEEKLY BY
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ALEXANDRIA:
THURSDAY MORNING, APRIL 22, 1858.

The Richmond Whig says:—"Perhaps, the prospect for a large and splendid crop of wheat in Virginia, was never better at this season of the year than it is at present. During a short trip to the country last week, we had an opportunity of seeing many fields, all of which looked unusually luxuriant and promising. From what we heard, also, we incline to the belief that the yield will be a remarkably heavy one, should no serious disaster occur, between now and harvest. But harvest is a long time off yet, and there is no telling what may happen to change the present prospect. As to the probable price for wheat, it is somewhat too early to begin to speculate. At all events, our farming friends will have to wait for the speaking out of those who are recognized as oracles on this interesting subject."

A great deal, says the New York Herald, is said in the newspapers of the extreme desire of the President to acquire the Island of Cuba, and numerous rumors are afloat in this connection, concerning the plans and purposes of the administration. We suspect, however, adds the Herald, that Mr. Buchanan is in no particular hurry upon this matter, and perhaps he would do well to wait the upshot of General Cane's project of declaring and establishing the independence of Cuba. That plan, if carried out, would solve the question by the sword. In the meantime, the politicians need not distress themselves concerning the designs of the President in this direction. It will doubtless watch his opportunity, but he will also abide his time.

Another letter of Orsini to the Emperor Napoleon, with his last will, has been published at Turin. It will not improve the public estimate of his character, since while it panders to the design of the Emperor on Italy, it meanly denies that he, Orsini, ever deliberately approved of the assassination, and pretends that he was the victim of "a fatal mental error." The production seems as if it had been written under an expectation that it might save his life, and almost as if some intimation of that kind had been held out to him, so palpably does it chime in with the indications on all sides of the Imperial designs. A more likely supposition is that he was promised that although his own life could not be spared, something should be done for his family.

The annual election for Sachems of the Tammany Society, of New York, was held on Monday night, in the Old Wigwam, Daniel E. Delevan, Grand Sachem, presiding, and A. S. Veeburgh and William Miner officiating as Secretaries. The result was awaited with great interest, though from the first, the Administration party were confident of success. The entire number of votes polled was 378—a larger number by 60, than ever before cast. Several members were present from various parts of the State and the Union, and the greatest excitement prevailed throughout the election. The result was the triumph of the regular or Westchester House ticket, and the defeat of the Wood faction, by an average majority of about 100.

The San Antonio Herald has an account of a severe storm which visited that town on the 20th ult. It says its effects were felt at Waco, Austin, Columbus, Gonzales and Columbia, but in the neighborhood of San Antonio it assumed the form of a tornado. It crossed the San Antonio two miles below the city, taking a southeasterly direction, crossed the Salado, and extended to the Cibola. Its track was narrow. At San Antonio, the hail storm was very severe. Some of the hail-stones were an inch in diameter. They riddled the sky-lights and knocked off the young peaches. There was an appearance of a water-spout below town. The storm blew down several houses and crippled several persons.

John P. Stanley died on the 11th instant, in Roonoke county, from a wound in the thigh which he received from a pistol ball about Christmas. He was crossing a fence, and the pistol fell from his pocket, the hammer striking a rock and causing it to explode and drive the ball through the leg, entering above the knee, and passing obliquely upwards, came out near the hip. The wound healed, and to all appearance the patient was doing well, and walked out, after which it inflamed and mortified, and in this condition he lingered, suffering most excruciatingly, for over one hundred days, the flesh during that time falling from the limb.

By the arrival of the steamship Black Warrior, we have news from Havana to the 14th inst. Eighteen British gunboats were cruising around the Island of Cuba, in order, as asserted, to prevent the landing of negroes, but the search exercised by them on American vessels is reported as very ineffectual. A magnificent ball was given on the 11th inst. on board the Spanish war ship Isabella II. It was a dazzling scene of wealth, beauty, diamonds, and dress. The health of Havana remained good.

The Washington Union says:—Let Kansas be admitted with the Leocompton constitution, and not only Kansas but the whole country will say Amen! with hearty good-will. Never was a great nation so cured with an unnecessary excitement as this nation has been with the Kansas question, and never was a nation more glad to be rid of a hated incultus than this nation will be to be rid of that wretched agitation which in 1856 almost threatened a division of the Union.

Messrs. Ritchie & Dunnivant, of Richmond, are about to publish a new Map of Virginia, brought down to the present time, with all the new counties, towns and railroads. Its size is two feet four inches by three feet three. On rollers suited to parlors or halls, the price is \$3—in cases for the pocket \$1.50. Competent artists are employed upon the work.

Seven vessels are advertised to sail from Detroit direct for Liverpool, via the St. Lawrence, within a few days. Lumber is the chief portion of their cargoes.

The New York Company, formed for promoting colonization and commerce in Central America, have lately obtained from the New York Assembly a very liberal charter. The capital of the company is \$300,000. They have held a preliminary meeting, and are soon to be organized. They have already established a small colony on the bay of Foresea, a very commanding situation for trade.

The Warrenton Whig says:—"The County of Clay, lately established by the Legislature of this State out of parts of the counties of Braxton and Nicholas, is singularly to say, the strongest Anti-Democratic county in Virginia, by its population. The Virginia Legislature would never have named this county after the Great Kentuckian, had he lived until now."

Further difficulties are reported to have sprung up among the European Commissioners in the Principalities. Accounts received by way of Germany state that the French Commissioner is of opinion that the necessary re-organization must be carried out under the superintendence of the great powers, and not be left to the Porte.

The Madrid journals of the 1st are again discussing the alleged fusion of the two branches of the Royal family; and some of them denounce the Government for not having prevented it. The Government and the Carlist Journalists treat the matter with indifference.

In the Senate, on Tuesday, Mr. Clark moved to reconsider the vote of the 17th instant, by which the Pacific railroad bill was postponed until the first Monday of December; and the further consideration of the motion was postponed until yesterday.

Two Germans have been arrested and committed for trial in Buffalo, charged with violating the neutrality laws, in enlisting men for the British army. Despatches from British officers, going to show the guilt of the accused, were produced on the examination.

As far as heard from, there are large majorities in Minnesota in favor of the five millions loan bill recently adopted by the Legislature. It is estimated that the whole majority in favor of the law will not be less than ten thousand.

Intelligence from Genoa of the 21st of April, gives the result of the trial at Lucca of the Leghorn insurgents. Eight of the prisoners are condemned to death, and eleven to various terms of imprisonment. Five of the latter are Sardeian subjects.

The Rev. Dudley A. Tyng, of Philadelphia, one of the most eminent divines of this country, who met with a severe accident some days ago, and who suffered the amputation of a limb, died in that city on Tuesday, from the effect of his injuries.

The experiments in coal burning on the Eastern railways show a saving of fifty per cent. as compared with wood; and in Ohio, where coal is abundant and cheap, the difference in favor of coal is even greater.

The Richmond Whig says:—"We saw yesterday, the finest specimen of the genuine American eagle our eyes ever beheld. It was caught in King George county, a day or two ago on the farm of Mr. Fitzbugh."

WASHINGTON, April 20.—The committee of conference of the House and Senate on the Kansas bill, met again this morning, when Mr. English submitted a proposition similar to that indicated in yesterday's dispatch. The Senate committee asked time to consider it, and an adjournment to two o'clock, took place.

WASHINGTON, April 20.—P. M.—Mr. English's bill is still under consideration by the Senate's committee of conference, with a fair prospect of ultimate agreement. Many consider this as already certain. Messrs. Seaward and Howard dissent.

The several political parties were this afternoon and are to-night, much interested in privately discussing the measure of success, of which no definite opinion can yet be formed.

It is probable the committees of conference will report to-morrow.

Many letters addressed to the managers of the bogus lotteries recently broken up in the North, enclosing thousands of dollars, have been forwarded to Washington to be restored to their deluded authors.

The United States steamer Fulton, which proceeded from Key West to Tampico three days ago, was under special orders to protect American property in that quarter, in accordance with a request from the State made to the Navy Department, based on the representations of our consul at Tampico.

All the midshipmen who passed their examination several days ago at Annapolis, have been ordered into active service.

It is generally believed that the President will accept the two regiments of volunteers offered from Kentucky and Ohio. The regiment from Ohio consists of five companies from Cincinnati, one from Columbus, one from Toledo, one from Springfield, one from Mount Gilead, and one from Cushman.

Nearly all the officers, and many of the men, served in the Mexican war, and the entire regiment can be ready for the field on short notice.

CHICAGO, April 19.—Messrs. Sheban and Cameron, editors of the Times, were examined today before the United States Commissioner, on the charge of abstracting letters from the post office; but no evidence was brought against them and they were discharged.

COLLINGWOOD, C. W., April 19.—The brig Mahoning, from Milwaukee, arrived here on Saturday night, with a cargo of flour, consigned to Montreal and Boston, being the first arrival of the season.

St. Louis, April 20.—It is reported that an express passed through this city, on Sunday night, with government dispatches from General Johnson, but no news transpired here.

INDIANAPOLIS, April 20.—Judge Stevens, the oldest resident of this city, a brother of the Hon. Thaddeus Stevens, of Pennsylvania, died suddenly last evening.

NEW YORK, April 20.—The steamer Saxonia, from Hamburg via Southampton, with dates to the 6th, has arrived.

A sale of tea to-day was made at prices 1 cent lower. Market heavy.

News of the Day.

"To show the very age and body of the times." In the Senate, on Tuesday, Mr. Benjamin, from the Committee on Private Land Claims, to which was referred the bill to settle doubts in relation to the title of common field lots in the State of Missouri, heretofore granted to the inhabitants of St. Louis for the support of schools, submitted a special report, recommending that the bill do pass.

The Comptroller of Tennessee announces that the following Free Banks have gone into liquidation and that their circulation will be redeemed out of the trust funds in his hands, viz: Bank of Paris, Bank of Commerce, Bank of Jefferson, Bank of Trenton, and Bank of Tazewell.

A beautiful slab of Missouri marble (says a Kentucky exchange), has just been received from a military company in St. Louis, to be inserted in the Clay monument. It bears upon its face, raised letters, the following inscription: "I would rather be right than be President. National Guards, St. Louis, July 4, 1857."

The bridge over the Rvsnke River on the Virginia and Tennessee Railroad, destroyed by fire some time ago, has been repaired sufficiently to allow the trains to pass, so that there will hereafter be no detention in the transportation of goods over the road.

The New York Board of health on Monday appointed a committee to attend the National Quarantine Convention in Baltimore on the 29th instant, and it is said the Chamber of Commerce of that city will also send delegates to attend the Convention.

It is probable that several of the States which have abolished the death penalty will return to its use. "Blood for blood" seems to be the rational interpretation of stern justice, and the public safety would seem to demand adherence to it now as in the olden time. Among the bills passed by the Legislature of Massachusetts, is one making two divisions in the crime of murder, the first of which, where it is premeditated and taken while in the commission of a felony, is made punishable with death; the second degree is punished by imprisonment for life.

The Pennsylvania Legislature has just passed a new liquor license law, the main features of which are as follows:—The minimum price of licenses with sales of over \$1,000 to be \$25, and under \$1,000 to be \$15. In Philadelphia and Pittsburgh, the minimum to be \$50. Hotels and taverns to be classified and rated according to the sales. On sales of \$8,000 the license to be \$250; on sales of \$6,000 the license to be \$150; and on sales of \$2,000 the license to be \$50. Retail brewers to be rated as eating houses. Appraisers to be appointed to examine and detect adulterated and drugged liquors, and the sale of such liquors prohibited and punished.

General William Marks, who was a member of the Pennsylvania Legislature as early as 1810, and for six years President of the Senate of that State, died on Saturday week. In 1827, he was elected to the United States Senate, and served a term of six years. In this distinguished body he was a member of the Committee on Military Affairs, and between whom, although differing politically, there always existed the closest personal friendship.

On Sunday evening a young man named Newman walked into the Mission (Episcopal) church in Brooklyn, and after carefully viewing the congregation, walked up to a young lady in the choir, whose name is Frances J. Bennett, and drawing a dagger made a desperate though unsuccessful effort to plunge it in her breast. She screamed, and a second effort was being made by the fellow to carry out his awful object, when some gentlemen interfered and secured him. The youth had fallen in love with the young lady against his will, and being peremptorily dismissed, took this method of being revenged. When arrested he remarked amidst tears, "I don't care if I go up for a year. I'll live with her as much as ever." He says that he only intended to kill her out of love, so that no one else could have her. The affair created an intense excitement among the congregation.

The Hon. Charles Marim, who died at his residence in Leipzig, Kent county, Delaware, on Friday night, the 26th ult., had been a prominent member of the bar of Delaware and also filled several important positions in the State. He was secretary of State under Geo. Comery; was several times elected to the legislature from Kent county; and at one time, had been chosen to have voted for himself in the legislature, might have been elected to the Senate of the United States.

The long litigated and troublesome Street Commissioner question, in New York, is settled at last. The Board of Aldermen have decided upon sustaining the Mayor in the removal of Mr. Devlin, and also sustained the nomination of Edward Cooper as his successor. Mr. Cooper has been named, given the Mayor's bond, and the keys of the Street Commissioner's office have been delivered into his hands.

The Hon. Caleb Lyon, whose eloquence, not less than his eccentricities, attracted general attention whilst in Congress, has been giving at Albany what the papers term "an intellectual feast" on "Egypt and the Holy Land," through which regions he has recently travelled.

At the recent Democratic State Convention of North Carolina, a resolution was adopted urging upon the favorable attention of Congress, the advantages possessed by the mineral region situated in the valley of Deep River, in that State, as a location for a National Foundry.

Gov. King, of New York, has issued a proclamation offering a reward of one thousand dollars for such information as will lead to the apprehension and conviction of the murderer of Charles I. Samuel, whose body had been found in the East River, at the foot of Washington street, Brooklyn.

Eliza Barritt, the "learned blacksmith" and emancipationist, is about to publish a paper at New Britain, Connecticut, commencing about the 1st of May. It will be called the "North and South," and be devoted to the gradual abolition of slavery, by compensation to the owners.

The Masons of South Carolina are taking hold of the Mount Vernon fund in earnest. Several of the Lodges have subscribed \$1 for each member.

It is said there is a large amount of lumber on the Susquehanna, at Port Deposit. It is thought the price of lumber will be much lower this spring than last.

John Hogan, an Irish sculptor of considerable repute, died at Dublin, on the 27th of March, in the fifty-seventh year of his age.

Advice received from Vera Cruz, of a late date, state that, with the sixteen officers, leaders in a projected Santa Anna movement in Mexico, who were arrested on board the British steamer *Tex*, at Tampico, on the 31st ult., letters were taken, tending to show that Santa Anna had entered into an arrangement with Spain to subjugate the Mexican republic, and to establish a monarchy, or to make it a foreign dependency. The sum of \$10,000 was to be raised to inaugurate the plan.

The Richmond (Texas) Reporter reports a case of forgery in that town, by J. C. Robinson, for several years a resident of that place, and well esteemed. He had been indulging in dissipation and living beyond his means. To make ends meet, he resorted to forgery, was detected, fled, and attempted to escape by swimming the Brazos. It was thought that he succeeded in crossing, but his dead body drifted ashore at Velasco.

Recent accounts from St. Petersburg state that preparations on the most extensive scale are now being made for a fresh campaign against the Circassians. Polish letters report that a force of 100,000 Russian troops is to be concentrated in the South East of Poland, as soon as the state of the roads will permit. This movement has reference to the troubles in the Herzegovina, and the chance that Austria will occupy Montenegro.

Rev. Peter Cartwright, so well known throughout the West, if not the whole country, and who is now about eighty years of age, seems to be something of a politician, notwithstanding his age, as we see he has just been chosen a delegate to the democratic State convention of Illinois. His autobiography has lately been issued from the press of the Harpers.

Between fifty and sixty bag-heads of tobacco are daily sent off by railroad from the depot at Bladensburg, Prince George's county. From Beltsville other quantities are frequently dispatched. Old Prince George's seems to be looking up in everything this year.

A writer in the Chestertown News speaks of Gov. Hicks as the successor of the Hon. James A. Pearce in the U. S. Senate.

George Sand, the celebrated French authoress and socialist, has retired to spend the remainder of her days in a convent.

The Coal Fields near Richmond.

Virginia is happily endowed with nature's gifts. She is abundantly supplied with coal, iron, limestone, and many other minerals of superior quality, which she has in reserve for indefinite periods.

Mr. Job Atkins of the Black Heath Colliery, in Chesterfield county, furnishes the pulley with an estimate of the great coal resources, distant only some 12 miles from Richmond, which are of a far greater magnitude than we had supposed, comprising according to Mr. A., an area of about 64,000 acres, of which not more than one twentieth part has been worked, or 3,200 acres, which is chiefly on the eastern margin of the coal field, which will leave 60,800 acres yet to be developed by future operation. This immense area, containing coal at an average thickness of 10 feet, would contain 918,000,000 tons which, at the present rate of production, would last (if all got for a period of 5,550 years.)

As this can never be accomplished, Mr. Atkins takes a more probable view of the matter, "allowing for faults, rupture, and other obstructions, which are known to exist in all coal fields. If we deduct about one-third of this area for disturbance, and an area devoid of coal, we will then have about 40,000 acres of supposed coal lands, which, at an average thickness of six feet, and after making proper allowance for loss of coal in mining, would leave a quantity equal to 217,440,000 tons. Supposing the annual demand to be 200,000 tons, it would require a period of 1,087 years to exhaust this area."—*Fredricksburg Herald.*

The Baker's Island Gunno.

The samples of guano from Jarvis' and Baker's Islands, obtained by Commander Davis, of the St. Mary's U. S. Sloop-of-war, have been received by the Navy Department. They were forwarded by Com. Davis to San Francisco, for the reason that he did not suppose them of any value. In fact it is said, he reported to the Department that the deposits on these islands were but "mere earth." Commodore Mervine reported that it was "bird-dung in a state of decomposition." But as soon as his (Com. Davis) report was received, the Department sent for them to be immediately forwarded.

The Smithsonian Institution will analyze these specimens. A quantity of this guano reached the United States last spring, and its efficacy as a fertilizer has been abundantly proven, as will appear from the tests now on file in the Patent Office.

The resolution lately passed by the Senate calling for information relating to these islands, will doubtless furnish the facts now on file in the Navy, State Treasury, and Interior Departments.

The American Gunno Company have their agents in the Pacific now occupied in laying buoys and mooring at their islands, after which they will charter we hear, a number of vessels, whose arrival will probably anticipate next year's crop.—*Wash. Star.*

New Railway Signal.

A new railway signal has been tested satisfactorily in England, and is coming into general use. The qualities which it possesses, and which are relied on as establishing its value and efficiency, are that the signal can be made from the ground to the driver, and back again, with certainty and rapidity; that the guard and driver are able to communicate with each other by means of a code of signals.

In certain cases the signal apparatus is self-acting—automatic—for instance, if any accident cause the severance of the train, so as to prevent any communication between the guard and the driver by the voluntary action of either, then notice of the fact will be conveyed to them by the apparatus itself; there is no special skill required in order to manage or make the signal—that is, it is not liable to derangement, and in case some derangement does occur, the ordinary workmen employed on railway works are able to set the apparatus right, or make a new one; there is always a constant indication before the parties in charge of the train, that the signal is in working order so that the guard will not start from the station without knowing that the signal is all right and in reliable condition, and that there will be no serious delay in making up the train of carriages, or care because of the use of the signal.

Florida News.

By the arrival of the United States steamer Gray Cloud, Duke, from Fort Myers on Wednesday last, we have late intelligence from Col. Rector.

Billy Bowkay represents himself as ready to emigrate at any time, and says that he can prevail upon a party of boatmen (fourteen or twenty) to accompany him and the others now at Colonel Rector's camp if he can find them.

Several of Sam Jones' men have signified their intention to accept Major Rector's propositions. It is generally believed, however, that Sam himself will not remove till forced to at the point of the bayonet.

Col. Rector has notified the hostile Indians that the delegation will leave Florida for their Western home on the 1st day of May, and that such of them as expect to remove peacefully must be ready to embark on that day, and that the troops will be immediately put on the track of those who remain.

Mexico. In U. S. Senate, on Tuesday, Mr. Houston called up for consideration the resolution submitted by him on the 16th of February last, in relation to the establishment of a protectorate on the part of the United States over the States of Mexico, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras, and San Salvador.

Mr. Houston addressed the Senate at some considerable length, and said he meant to amend his resolution so as to confine it to Mexico proper, as that would be more respectful to Great Britain, with whom we were at present negotiating in relation to Honduras. Mr. H., in the course of his remarks, reviewed the present condition of Mexico, and pointed out the still greater danger of her being precipitated into absolute anarchy and wild confusion. He contended that the great leading duty of our Government was to insure safe neighborhood from Mexico, a policy alike demanded by humanity and interest. He reiterated the Monroe doctrine, as that to be cherished and defended by our people, and that we should never permit Mexico to be re-subjugated by Spain or placed under the dominion of any Foreign Power, and hence that we ought to assume a protecting power over her. Mr. H. spoke for upwards of an hour, and was listened to with much attention.

Mr. Houston proposed to amend the original resolution by striking out all after the word "whereas," and inserting in lieu thereof, "Resolved, That the United States, in order to establish upon a reliable basis an orderly system of self-government, have invariably resulted in complete failure; and whereas the condition of Mexico is such as to excite alarming apprehensions that she may precipitate herself into a wild condition of anarchy, and the more so as she has demonstrated from time to time her utter inability to suppress intestine commotions, and to conquer the hordes of bandits by which she is infested; and whereas the United States of America, on account of the continental policy, which they will cherish and desire to enforce, can never permit Mexico to be dominated by Spain, or to become the subject of any foreign power; and whereas one of the most important duties, devolving upon civilized Governments is to exact from adjoining nations the observances of good neighborhood, thus shielding themselves against impending or even remote injury to their border security: Therefore—

"Resolved, That a select committee of seven be raised to inquire and report to the Senate whether or not it is expedient for the Government of the United States of America to declare and maintain a protectorate over the so-called Republic of Mexico, in such form and to such extent as shall be necessary to secure to this Union good neighborhood, and to the people of said country the benefits of order and well regulated republican government."

Mr. Seward moved that the resolution be laid on the table and printed; which was agreed to.

Loss of the Bark Petrea.

PORTSMOUTH, Eng., April 5.—The American bark Petrea, of Boston, from Havre for New York, and 21st French and German passengers, and a general cargo, got ashore on Sunday morning, at about halfpast 2, on the eastern side of the harbor of Portsmouth, or Culchester's Pool. On the ship being discovered in her perilous position by the coast guard at East Wittering, under the command of Lieutenant Wollaston, I. N., every assistance was rendered by that officer and his crew. At about 3 P. M. a boat manned by 12 hands dispatched by the captain to the Chevalier Pappalardo, United States' consul at Portsmouth, informing him of the disaster, and asking assistance. The consul immediately embarked and returned in the boat to the wreck, distant about 12 miles from Portsmouth.

On boarding the bark he found the emigrants in a state of great alarm for their lives and property, although all had been done by the captain that he could to calm their fears and inspire confidence. Mr. Pappalardo at once gave such directions as were necessary, and engaged a gang of men to man the pumps and endeavor to keep her free from water, the crew being exhausted. A steamer had been sent to the assistance of the ship in the course of Sunday from Portsmouth, by the French consul (Chevalier Vandenberg), a report having been made to him that it was a French ship, but the power of the steamer was found to be limited to admit of her assistance being effective in moving the wreck, and she returned. Yesterday, at daylight, the wind blowing a gale from E. S. E. fearing that she would become a total loss, Consul Pappalardo, acting in conjunction with the captain, deemed it expedient no longer to delay attempting to land the passengers. Accordingly, he personally superintended the hoisting over the side all hands by means of a barrel and a whip, the women and children being attended to first. A heavy surf was beating on the beach; but these combined efforts were so successful that all were landed, the number of 239 souls, without an accident of any kind.

The President's Drawing Room.

Although the weather was very inclement last evening, the President's drawing-room was numerously attended, and numerous were the regrets expressed that it was to be the last one of the season.

The President received the many ladies and gentlemen successively presented to him by District Marshal Selden, with his wonted cordiality, recognizing his many friends as they passed. The ladies were subsequently presented by Commissioner Blake to Miss Lane, around whom a group of acquaintances remained, while the gaily dressed throng swept onward into the East room. This was filled with a varied mosaic of humanity, in which the diplomatic corps, members of the cabinet, senators, representatives, public men, artists, "maiden fair and matrons grave," were prominent objects of attention. The Marine Band, in an adjacent vestibule, furnished music for the promenaders.

From eight o'clock until ten did the throng of citizens of this Union, and strangers from abroad, exchange greetings with the President, furnishing an example of republican simplicity strikingly different from the ceremonial "presentations" at the courts of the chief magistrates of other lands; and, when the band gave the well-known signal for retiring, there was a general expression of regret that there will be no more "drawing-rooms" held at the Executive Mansion until next winter.—*Wash. Union.*

Bishop Mendez.

The venerable senior Bishop of the Episcopal Church in this Diocese, admitted to the rite of confirmation in two of the Episcopal churches of this city Sunday, and on both occasions delivered addresses. The appearance and aspect of the Bishop are truly venerable, though we are glad to perceive that his health has much improved, and that his voice is clearer and stronger than it was seventeen years ago, when he was compelled, on account of declining health, to relinquish his pulpit exercises. Since that time he has not been able to deliver a discourse from the pulpit until the Sunday before last at Alexandria, where, thirty-seven years ago, he first commenced his ministerial career. Simplicity and sincerity, life-long characteristics of his public efforts, are still distinguishing features of his addresses, and give peculiar impressiveness and solemnity to the wise and good counsel of one who has lived long and lived well.—*Richmond Dispatch.*

Domestic Exchange.

It is now several years since the Clearing House for the regulation and adjustment of bank balances was first established in New York, and it has worked to the satisfaction of all the institutions and the community generally. It is also several years since the uncurrent money business was taken hold of by two of our largest banks, and we believe that system has worked well, amidst all the panics and revolutions which have extended their periodical visit to us. It is now time to extend this banking supervision of financial affairs, and the next move should be in the direction of our domestic exchanges. For many years past and up to the revolution of last fall, the domestic exchanges of the country have been in the hands of individual brokers. The revolution of 1857 upset nearly or quite all these, and entailed serious losses upon those who were at the time unfortunate enough to hold some of these individual drafts. While these houses were openly doing our exchange business, they were deeply involved in speculation in railroads, coal companies and all sorts of fancy affairs, and using the money received for their drafts in distant sections of the country, to pay up losses and keep the machinery of their concerns in operation. When they failed, it was shown that most of them had been bankrupt for years, and had never been entitled to the credit they enjoyed. The danger incurred in dealing with individuals, particularly in exchange operations, was forcibly illustrated in the result of the financial revolution, and it is therefore time to look to some other system or rather to the same system, established by reliable and responsible parties. Some large bank in the city should control, with the support of and concurrence with the other banking institutions, of the entire domestic exchange of the country. This bank should be able to draw upon all points. A bank with large capital should be selected, and all the collections of other banks and of the commercial classes generally, should be made through it. There would then be some safeguard, some permanent system, by which the community would be better accommodated, and completely protected from the class of speculating financiers who have heretofore monopolized the exchange operations of the country. There would then be no difficulty in finding the place where drafts could be obtained on any point. Now it is almost impossible to find drawers on remote sections, and parties in search of drafts are compelled to inquire dozens of times before the proper place is found. With a large bank—selected by the Clearing House Committee for the purpose—making domestic exchange operations a specialty, the greatest facilities would be enjoyed, and all the difficulties, dangers and annoyances now experienced would be removed, and every interest of the country benefited.—*N. Y. Herald.*

Wellington.

Apocryphs of Wellington, we recollect, even as we write, an anecdote which we do not think has yet appeared in print. While the old Duke lived, his eldest son bore the courtesy title of Marquis of Duro, and had the civil reputation, until matrimony sobered him rather into a respectable character, of being rather "a fast man." His pecuniary allowance was large, but, in those days, he found it inadequate to his expenditures, and ran considerably into the alms-house.—*Debt.*

While residing at Walmer Castle, of which his father was warden, this hopeful heir to Duval rank and property, contrived to get pretty deeply into the books of a shoemaker at the neighboring town of Dover. The tradesman, finding his repeated requests for payment wholly unheeded—in fact that his noble creditor gave him *unwilling* attention—wrote to the Duke himself, as follows, on the subject:—"Mr. Tophay, shoemaker at Dover, presents his duty to the Duke of Wellington, enclosing a bill for £33.15.4, long owing to him by the Marquis of Duro, and begs that the Duke will see him paid." By return of post, Mr. Tophay received an autograph reply from Aspley House, (the Duke's London residence) of which we are able to subjoin an exact copy, taken from the original, which, carefully framed and glazed, now hangs in the back parlor of the recipient, at Dover. It ran thus:—"Field-Marshal, the Duke of Wellington has received a letter from Mr. Tophay, shoemaker at Dover, respecting the sum of £33.15.4, which he says is due to him by the Marquis of Duro. The Duke does not recollect the name of the Marquis of Duro, nor collect those of Mr. Tophay, shoemaker at Dover." The money was paid, however, soon after. But, like St. Pierre, in "The Wreath," Mr. Tophay, shoemaker at Dover, "kept the document."—*Phil. Press.*

Contingent Expenses.

We have recently seen a list of articles furnished the last House of Representatives, under the head of "contingent expenses," which discloses not only a very curious taste among our honorable law-makers, but also shows where a great deal of the money goes. If the list be correct, as we presume it is, (we take it from the Washington States) we think it is time there was another "corruption committee" organized there. Thus, there are four thousand five hundred pen-knives furnished to the members during the session, all paid for at the public expense. There are two hundred and thirty-four members in all, which makes about twenty to each member. Twenty pens to each member, during one session, "will do." Among other articles we find "cessors," amounting to six hundred and odd dollars; "dressing-cases," six hundred dollars; cigar-cases, ninety-seven dollars; "ladies' reticules" (2) two hundred and forty-two dollars; portfolios, nearly two thousand dollars; "albums (plain and illuminated)" two hundred and thirty-two dollars; "snuff," twenty-four dollars; "ink-stands," nearly two thousand dollars; "ladies' portmonies" three hundred and forty-seven dollars, &c., &c.

There is also a charge for "one value" of ten dollars—which we presume was furnished to some honorable member wherein to carry home his reticules, cessors, cigar-cases, and other articles necessary to legislation, and great social to a proper understanding of the great questions of government. Next year, at this rate of progression, we shall have Congress praying the bar-bills and back-bills of honorable members, and the pin money of their wives and daughters. We live in a great country.—*Lynchburg Virg.*

A Bolt of Fire.

The Boston Journal of Wednesday, says:—"As the New York and Worcester train connecting with the steamer Commonwealth, was passing Natick this morning, a ball of lightning as large as the two fists of a man, descended, ran along the telegraph wire, and exploded with a report as loud as a cannon. The wire was consumed, and the posts within a space of half